

going to provide more services. And maybe we are going to deliver a little greater value. And, Mr. Speaker, if that means that a few dollars are saved in the process, well, I am all for that.

But consider the numbers involved here. Medicaid, with no reform, is going to grow at a rate of 7.3 percent over the next 5 years. With the reforms we put in place, Medicaid is going to grow at a rate of 7 percent over the next 5 years. We are talking about a miniscule amount of savings by adding some value to the program as it exists today. As a consequence, more patients will be served by this program.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know, because I sat in that markup for 3 days, I know right now it is popular to vilify the productive segment of American society. I have heard it done from every angle. There is angst, genuine angst over reinvesting in the productive segment of American society. We hear it all the time, why \$55 billion was given to people who really do not need it.

But, Mr. Speaker, those are the taxpayers. Those are the people who create the jobs. I know, because I was one three short years ago. That 38 percent tax rate I paid on my business allowed me to employ 50 people in my town of Lewisville, Texas. It allowed me to purchase equipment for my practice. But what do we hear out of the other side? They want that \$55 billion back, but that \$55 billion that we reinvested produced \$262 billion for the American Treasury this year in additional tax revenue. So they would have to double the tax and double it again to even approach the amount of money.

Well, this is the default position on the other side. This fall is not the time for Democrats to roll out positive agenda, said a House Democrat aide. That is a shame. We need their ideas. We need their enthusiasm. We need their energy. I look forward to this debate tomorrow. I think at the end of the day we are going to have a good product for the American people.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHO NEEDS THE FIRST AMENDMENT?

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Washington?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, who needs the first amendment when we have the Republican Party? Their view is that the American people just do not need to know what their government is doing in their name. We just do not need to know that this country now has secret CIA-un prisons around the world where prisoners are sent or sentenced because they get no representation. After all, DICK CHENEY, our President of foreign policy, supports us looking and acting like Cold War countries we used to fear. We do not have any skills in building facilities to be ashamed of, so we rent those old Cold War prison camps in places where people went in and were never heard from again.

Republican leaders just do not think this is the kind of information the American people need to know. After all, we might talk about it. Someone might write about it. Someone might question why we want to behave like the Cold War all over again. But this time, we are on the other side. The American people would not know any of this except for The Washington Post reporting about prisoners and policies that sound more like the enemy than the good guys.

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This did not sit well with DICK CHENEY and he let Republican leaders on Capitol Hill know it, behind closed doors of course, his favorite location. Almost immediately Republican leaders fell in behind the President of Foreign Policy and carried out their orders. Find the person who dared let America know what is really going on behind those closed doors.

Republican leaders intend to find out who let the American people know about the dirty little secret that the administration did not want us to know. It is detention at a whole new level where suspects simply vanish, and they did not want us to know. And we would not have known except for journalism's ability to report all the news thanks to the first amendment.

Why do they want to keep us in the dark? Because Americans would be appalled, because Americans know that we can fight and win a war without sacrificing the principles that made us America in the first place. America does not need a mask over its face to beat the people wearing masks over theirs. And America does not need secret prisons hidden in other countries as if that somehow that absolves us from responsibility. This kind of perverse policy says a lot about how out of touch this administration is, especially its President of Foreign Policy, with the values and strengths of America.

Do you think Americans will not be ashamed or that the world will not be appalled again by our actions? Did we not learn anything from Abu Ghraib? What will it take for this administration to stop acting in ways that cause the average American to shake his head and avert his eyes? What will it

take for this administration to realize that every time it deploys another deplorable policy, it puts our soldiers in Iraq and everywhere else at greater risk. What kind of arrogance and abuse?

This happened before in another Republican administration that became so flushed with power they forgot who they worked for. They too tried to hide black ops aimed at subverting political opponents and anyone who dared challenge their power. Nixon and his cronies almost got away with it except for the reporting of the same paper.

In the end, the corruption ate away at the pillars of the Republican power until it all came crashing down around them. A Vice President and a President resigned from office. The country was appalled by their conduct.

The first amendment of the Constitution was America's last defense against the Nixon administration and it is true again today. It is no wonder Republicans want to replace the first amendment with amendment 1-R. That is where one Republican will tell the American people what you are supposed to know and attack anyone who dares challenge them. Everything you need to know will come out only from the Republicans in power. That is what they want, government behind closed doors.

We used to recognize the rule of law and the Geneva Convention. Now we are at the point that we do not recognize America's strengths and values. Dare to challenge these Republicans and they will out you one way or another.

Prisoners are not the only ones vanishing under the policies and direction of the Bush administration, so is the truth. And the first amendment is America's last line of defense.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot let the Republicans do away with the first amendment. It is our only hope in a democracy.

DEMOCRATS CONTINUE TO SING THE SAME OLD SONG

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the majority that is committed to fiscal responsibility. The Democrats' needle is stuck in a groove and it is playing the same song over and over: Tax and spend.

Republicans have already passed a budget that cut \$100 million from the deficit. Democrats refuse to vote for this budget. In fact, over the last 3 years Democrats have tried to bust the discretionary budget in the appropriations process by over \$60 billion in additional spending. Along with the billions more in spending, Democrats also offered amendments totaling almost \$400 billion in additional taxes.

I guess it is hard to learn a new tune when the old one is playing over and over again in your head.